

Job Sheet for

Field Borders as Wildlife Habitat

(386, 645)

Purpose: A field border is a strip of native herbaceous vegetation established along the edges of crop fields to reduce invasion of woody plant succession, to provide natural wildlife food and cover. Additional benefits may be provided for farm machinery access, erosion control, and water quality.

Requirements:

- Minimum width 25 feet
Note: Width may be increased to compensate for field border irregularities and to facilitate row patterns
- Where erosion is a consideration, a temporary cover crop or native perennial species may be planted
 - Suggested temporary cover crops: Spring – browntop and proso millet; Fall – rye, oats, or wheat
Reseeding annuals — partridge pea, Kobe or Korean lespedeza
 - Suggested native perennials: native warm-season grasses such as switchgrass, Indiangrass, little bluestem grass, Eastern gammagrass, or Atlantic Coast panicgrass



Field Borders

Maintenance:

- One third of the field borders should be disked each year in late February or early March
 - For example: a field border that is three disks wide would be maintained by disking an area one disk wide each year on a three year rotation
 - Note: supplementary wildlife plantings are not necessary, but would be allowed at the time of disking
- **DO NOT** disk, mow, or burn field borders between **April 1-September 1**

Primary Habitat Consideration:

- Nesting and brood-habitat for quail and various songbirds
- Natural food and cover for quail, rabbits, doves, and turkeys

Site Specific Comments and Recommendations:

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